

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY



www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

March 2025

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. The speaker will be Jim Codling who will speak about William Tyndale (1494-1536). Tyndale wrote the first translation of the Bible from Greek and Hebrew to English in 1525. This written work provided a model of grammar, punctuation, and spelling of the English language which took advantage of the printing press. Tyndale was executed in 1536. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 228-467-4090. **Please call by noon on Wednesday, March 19** to make your reservation in order to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people and to apprise us of the number of lunches to order. **Served at noon, lunch is \$15.00 for members and \$17.00 for non-members**, payable at the door. The catering order is submitted on Wednesday morning prior to the luncheon on Thursday. If you need to cancel your reservation, please call by 2 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the luncheon if at all possible so that the society does not incur unnecessary expenses. It is catered by Chef Michelle Nichols. The lunch menu is pan seared pork chops, grits casserole, green beans, éclair cake, and yeast rolls.



Jim Keating, Publisher of the Historian, seated number two from the left, has breakfast with the Country Gentlemen Band. The members, seated from the extreme left to the right are Roy Ladner, Keith Hoda, and Dubois Ladner. This band has performed original and classic Country Music for thirty years in Hancock and Pearl River Counties.

COUNTRY MUSIC

By

James Keating MD

In the early 1900's before "country" was formalized as a genre of music, its early roots and folk traditions included local string bands often featuring fiddles, banjos, and/or guitars. These musicians played a mix of old-time tunes, gospel, and popular parlor songs. In rural Hancock County, evening porch gatherings, local barn dances, and church-based singing events provided the springboard for this "country" style composed of fiddle tunes, simple guitar strumming, and tight vocal harmonies.

By the 1940's and 1950's, radio stations along the coast (eg. WLOX in Biloxi) featured local country bands. After World War II soldiers returning home boosted demand for lively entertainment frequenting dance halls, roadside taverns, and honky-tonks. For example, US Highway 90 along the coast sprouted many roadhouses where country bands shared the bill with R & B or blues acts. Pearl River County and Hancock County booked local country musicians alongside traveling carnival shows.

During the 1920's a Mississippi musician, Jimmie Rogers, created a genre of country music likened to "hillbilly" music and he is known as the "Father of Country Music." In the period 1930-1950, the Grand Ole Opry played on radio stations music of artists such as Hank

THE
HISTORIAN
OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor &
Lobrano House Director
James Keating, Publisher

Published monthly by the
HANCOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Roth, President
Beverly Frater, Treasurer
Georgie Morton, Secretary
James Keating, Publicity Chairman
Jim Codling, Historian and Parliamentarian
Ron Thorp, Chairman of the House Committee
Bryan Frater, Membership & Fund Raising
Bert Young, Audiovisual Tech
Casey Sullivan, Archivist
Candee Canady, Member at Large
Patrick Reeder, Member at Large
Tom Stone, Member at Large

MAILING ADDRESS:

P. O. Box 3356
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

108 Cue Street
Telephone [228] 467-4090

Email address:
hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net

Website:
www.hancockcountyyhistoricalsociety.com

**LOBRANO HOUSE
HOURS**

MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM

CLOSED 12—1 (lunch)

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

Williams. It also included singing cowboys performing country and western style. In the period 1950-1970 the Nashville Sound introduced musicians such as Elvis, Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, and Roy Orbison. During a fourth period of country music from 1970-1990 "outlaw country" was created by a small group of artists who fought for and won their creative freedom outside the Nashville establishment that previously had dictated the sound of most country music of that era. Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson are among the movement's most commercially successful members. John Denver sang more traditional country and folk rock.

By the turn of the 21st Century, "pure country" music remained popular in Pearl River County and the inland parts of Hancock County. Indeed, many country musicians in these counties like Dubois Ladner came from families with multigenerational ties to the area. Coastal towns such as Bay St. Louis, Waveland, and Pass Chris-

tian inevitably reflected a fusion of styles. These waterfront communities experienced cultural cross-pollination with New Orleans influencing local musical tastes with Cajun, jazz, and "swamp pop."

A honky-tonk venue of yester year in the 1930's in Hancock County was located in the Kiln known as the "Cow Shed" or Ward's that was owned by Izella Glass. They played the Jimmie Rodgers and Ernest Tubb brand of country music. A top fiddle player of Hancock County was Pee Wee Mattox who played there. A favorite song at that time was the "Bobby La Croix Waltz" (Bayou La Croix). There was a lot of fiddle-playing in those days. Other top fiddle players of Hancock County included Tommy Moran, Sr., Melvin Lusich, John Necaise from Rocky Hill, Jack Youngblood Perier, Pee Wee Moran, and Leverne Moran. Other popular local honky-tonks included Archie's Club in Delisle, Roy Coenan's Club in Dedeaux, and the Cable Bridge Lounge on Vidalia Road. Two local bands in the day

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Charles Gray, our former Executive Director, had the foresight early on to begin digitizing our archival material on our website with open access to all. Volunteers spent hundreds of hours scanning and uploading historical documents thus providing the public with free access to the history of Hancock County.

Many of the documents we have on file are original and not available from any other source. Whether you are a resident or visitor, take a minute to go to our website and look at the documents and photographs under the Research, Local History and Preservation tabs. You will thoroughly enjoy walking back in time and learning more about the people and history of Hancock County.

Taking our archival and preservation mission a step further, last year we began uploading our archival information to the Mississippi Digital Library. This cyber library is a repository of historical information for the State of Mississippi. This puts our information on a much larger platform and provides an additional layer of protection for our records.

"The thin veneer of civilization rests upon what may well be an illusory faith in our common humanity. But illusory or not, we would do well to cling to it."
Historian Will Durant

Chris Roth
President

was Tommy Moran and the "Morans" and Garland Moran and the "Night Travelers." "If you wanna play in Hancock County, you betta have a fiddle in your band."

A local country music band called "Country Gentlemen" was organized in 1994. They have played in Pearl River County and Hancock County for forty years with a mission to support veterans and educate young people of original, classic country music rather than the modern stuff known as neotraditional, "stadium country," or rock country music. The sounds of Country Gentlemen are not the music of Carrie Underwood or Taylor Swift. The members of Country Gentlemen included Dubois Ladner, Keith Hoda, Melvin Mitchel, John Necaise, Junior Necaise, Sammy Cuevas, and David Yarlborough. This band still performs at Veterans Clubs and benefits playing classic country and dance music.

In conclusion, the path of our local country music was shaped by rural folk tradition, post World War II honky-tonk culture, and cross-pollination with Louisiana sounds. Classic country bands like Country Gentlemen foster our music cultural heritage.

SOURCE:

Ladner, Dubois. Personal interview. Dec. 13, 2024.

YELLOW FEVER

By James Keating MD

During the Nineteenth Century, there were several "yellow fever" epidemics in New Orleans and Hancock County. Its residents called the plague "yellow jack" because of the jaundice (yellow skin) that occurs with severe disease. Yellow Fever is not the same disease as malaria. Yellow Fever is caused by a virus while malaria is caused by a parasite. Both diseases are transmitted by mosquitos.

There is a vaccine to prevent yellow fever, but no vaccine to prevent malaria. Initial symptoms of yellow fever include fever, chills, headache, back pain, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and weakness. Severe symptoms include high fever, yellow skin and/or eyes, bleeding, shock, and organ failure. Yellow Fever arrived in America during the Seventeenth Century via the slave trade.

It is instructive to briefly describe the method of treatment of disease by our ancestors in this time frame. No one called a local doctor except for the most serious diseases. Quinine was the remedy for chills and fever. Another home remedy was "bluemass," a dark gummy substance that was rolled into a pill. Calomel was commonplace in most farm houses. These powerful purgatives were followed by castor oil to complete the cure.

In 1900, US Army Surgeon Major Walter Reed and his Yellow Fever Commission discovered the cause of Yellow Fever. They proved the disease was transmitted by the bite of a mosquito and caused by a filterable agent (virus) in the blood of infected patients. Mississippi eradicated yellow fever by killing the mosquito population that spread the disease.

The several local epidemics in this era started in New Orleans. The disease was brought over from Caribbean Sea travelers. Once the diagnosis was made and publicized, New Orleans residents would flee to Hancock County to their summer houses. Unfortunately, the disease accompanied them to Mississippi creating smaller epidemics. There were epidemics in 1842, 1853, and 1867. In 1867, St. Stanislaus College had to close. It took three years for the student body to again reach the original number. Another epidemic occurred in 1878 with fifty cases diagnosed resulting in twelve dead. In 1898, there were eight cases in Waveland that resided in three adjoining houses. In one house a fifteen-year-old girl was in critical

condition suffering an attack of black vomit.

In 1905, a severe yellow fever epidemic hit New Orleans. Dr. John Hunter, Secretary of the Mississippi Board of Health, ordered a state quarantine against the City of New Orleans. Authorities in Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas established similar quarantines to protect their citizens. Louisiana felt these reactions were extreme. Preventative measures in both states were recommended such as elimination of all stagnant water, put a teacup of "insurance oil" on the surface of cistern water, cesspools, and privy vaults, put mosquito nets on beds, and install screens on doors and windows. New Orleanians who had summer homes in Mississippi were not allowed on the Gulf Coast.

On July 26, 1905, Mississippi Governor James A. Vardaman sent Mississippi military personnel to the Louisiana border with orders to maintain the quarantine "at the point of a bayonet." Mississippi sent armed boats to the Rigolets to waylay outward schooners. Louisiana Governor Blanchard ordered armed vessels to Lake Borgne, Chef Menteur, and the Rigolets "to protect the rights of Louisiana fishermen and boatmen who have been harassed, annoyed, and assailed by Mississippi quarantine guards."

The dispute was settled when President Theodore Roosevelt intervened and Federal Authority negotiated an armistice. This conflict has been called the Louisiana Mississippi Quarantine War of 1905 or the "War of the Waters." But the 1905 Yellow Fever epidemic, the last that the South experienced, left 870 cases with 70 deaths in Mississippi and 9,321 cases with 988 deaths in Louisiana.

In conclusion, Yellow Fever epidemics in the Nineteenth Century were disasters. Citizens panicked and often left the county

bundled up what they could carry with them and in less than two hours would be off north to the countryside to stay with family or friends. In the Twentieth Century, great discoveries and advances in Medicine such as vaccines would provide patients with cures for infectious disease.

SOURCE:

Scharff, Robert. *Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain.*: Brunswick Publishing Corporation, Lawrenceville, Virginia, 1998.

**SNOW IN BAY ST. LOUIS and WAVELAND
JANUARY 21, 2025**



NEW MEMBERS

Richard and Marie Finegan
Waveland, MS

Kerry E. Fitzgerald
Bay St. Louis

Mason and Janet Gordon
Pass Christian, MS

Charles and Nathalie Lulei
Bay St. Louis, MS

Ronald Newsom
Johnstown, PA

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues in the Hancock County Historical Society are due each January. Membership for an individual is \$30 per year, and for a family they are \$50 per year. Dues may be paid by credit card at our website, or you may send a check to Hancock County Historical Society, P.O. Box 3356, Bay St. Louis MS, 39521

RIEMANN FAMILY Funeral Homes

Est. 1920

Our Family Faithfully Serving
Bay Saint Louis, Waveland, and Hancock County
Now with full Reception Centers
141 Hwy 90, Waveland, MS 39576
(228) 242-4500

"There is a Difference, Riemann Services"



EDMOND-FAHEY
FUNERAL HOMES

SINCE 1895

Stop in and see our new renovations including chapel, furnishings, audio/video, and more.
Locally owned Bradford-O'Keefe affiliate



★BOOKER★
FEST!

EVERY LABOR DAY WEEKEND

100 MEN HALL
303 UNION STREET BAY SAINT LOUIS

MUSIC * CULTURE * COMMUNITY



\$159

Indulge in a luxurious one-night getaway with two buffets Sunday through Thursday.

To reserve, call 1-866-SLIPPER (754-7737), ext. 0. Exclusions: This offer is not applicable on Friday and Saturday.

MENTION CODE: DATENITE



www.silverslipper-ms.com • 1-866-SLIPPER • 1-866-754-7737
5000 South Beach Blvd • Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Rooms based on availability. Advanced room reservations and credit card upon booking required to guarantee room.
24-hour cancellation required. Non-transferable. Cannot be combined with other offers.
Must be 21 years of age or older. Must present Players Card and valid photo ID at check-in. Tax not included.
Does not include incidental charges. Management reserves the right to cancel and/or modify this offer.
Additional restrictions may apply. Offer only valid for new reservations. See Players Services for details.



GARDENIA TEA ROOM

BY ALMOST HOME

www.gardeniatearoom.com
228-332-2334



In *The Little House of Healing*, nine individuals—including a newly divorced woman and a resilient cancer survivor—find solace and a fresh start in Miss Lucy's peaceful Bay St. Louis cottage. This inspiring novel delves into themes of redemption and the resilience of the human spirit.

Amazon.com/author/lleel

Available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble.com, Historical Society, Bay Life Gifts in The Shops of Century Hall.



Steve B. Treutel

Vice President

Senior Financial Advisor

Mississippi Gulf Coast
(228) 385-6307

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.
AD-06-12-0048 ARSOT2V1-10-11 Code 453007PM-0612

RAYMOND JAMES®

T 228.466.9988 843 Highway 90
F 228.466.9978 Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520
patrick.martinez@raymondjames.com
www.RaymondJames.com

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC.

FORD REALTY

(601) 798-6202 800-354 FORD(3673)

Residential, Timberland, Ranches, Commercial



1004 Memorial Blvd
P.O. Box 418
Picayune, MS 39466
Fax 601-799-0202

MARTHA FORD, Broker, GRI SFR

MARTYFORD@BELLSOUTH.NET

CELL: 601-590-2988

www.fordrty.com



Est. 1949



Descendants of Juan de Cuevas



24567 Standard Dedeaux Rd
Kiln, Ms 39556

Phone: (228) 222-0071 Fax: (228) 255-7195
descendantsofjuandecuevas@outlook.com

Website: www.cuevasofcatisland.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Family Association

ZACH BUTTERWORTH

HESSE & BUTTERWORTH, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

P. O Box 3567

Bay Saint Louis, MS 39521

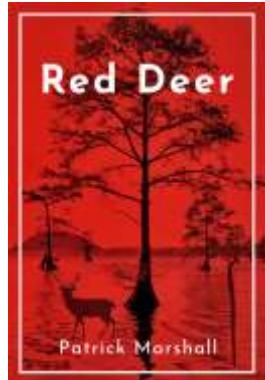
Ph. (228) 255-7500

FAX (228) 255-9009

Licensed in LA & MS

REAL ESTATE SALES & RENTALS
SINCE 1928 - CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!

418 HWY 90 - WAVELAND - 228-467-5454
WWW.ASHMAN-MOLLERE.COM



Red Deer is fantasy infused historical fiction. Jesse Walker, a 16 year old from present day Gulf Coast Mississippi, is transported back through time to the legendary birthplace of the Choctaw people, Nanih Waiya village.

HUBBARD'S WAVELAND HARDWARE
"IF YOU DONT THINK WE HAVE IT, ASK US!!"
DAVID & RICHARD HUBBARD
615 NICHOLSON AVE
WAVELAND, MS 39576
PHONE: (228)467-4494 FAX: (228)467-7632

Mayley's Pest Control, LLC
your local answer to what's bugging you **David Mayley**
Cell: 228-380-0755 Ofc: 228-380-0295 Licensed • Bonded • Insured Knowledgeable • Professional **603 Esplanade Ave.** Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Bay St Louis:
412 Hwy 90
228-466-4498

Biloxi:
2505 Pass Rd
228-385-1177

Diamondhead:
5400 Indian Hill
228-467-2272



Heather S. Davis, CII
President
SouthGroup Insurance
Gulf Coast



SOUTHGROUP
INSURANCE SERVICES

GULF COAST

- We offer Personal, Business, Life and Health Insurance
- We help our clients save money and get more value.
- We are Trusted Choice and have been awarded the Best Practices Designation.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.southgroupgulfcoast.com
central fax: 888-415-8922

Alice Moseley Folk Art Museum
honors nationally acclaimed Folk Artist,
Alice Latimer Moseley
(1909-2004).



"The House is Blue, But the Old Lady Ain't"

**Monday-Saturday
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**Located in the Historic Train Depot
1928 Depot Way, Bay St. Louis, MS
228-467-9223**

www.alicemoseley.com

FREE ADMISSION!



HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521

STREET ADDRESS: 108 CUE ST.
PHONE: 228.467.4090

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U. S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 87
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 3356, BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39521

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Online payment may be made at www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP _____

PHONE (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Founder Individual \$30 _____ Founder Family \$50 _____

Thomas Shields \$100 _____

Charles Gray Society \$250 _____

Life Time \$500 _____

DUES RENEW IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR